

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The objections to the specification and the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejections of the claims are overcome by the above amendments.

All pending rejections rely on USPN 7,091,149 which has an effective date under 35 USC 102(e) of July 1, 2002. The present Japanese priority application (JP 2002-070350) was filed on March 14, 2002 and thus antedates USPN 7,091,149.

A verified English translation of JP 2002-070350 is attached. It is submitted that at least claim 1 is supported by this document.

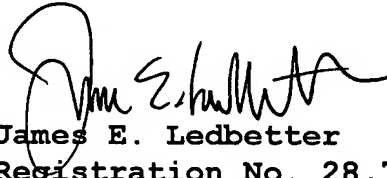
Accordingly, all prior art rejections are deemed to be overcome via filing of this verified translation of the Japanese priority application, in order to perfect the applicants' claim for priority.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending objections and rejections have been overcome, and this application is in condition for allowance subject to removal of issues relating to the restriction requirement.

A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone discussion, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 28,732

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JEL/att

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